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BLAMES MANAGEMENT, PARTY FOR PRODUCTION LAGS
AND INEFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY

SCORES OPERATIONS AT TRACTOR PLANT -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 4 Nov 51

The Hofherr factory, manufacturers of tractors and construction equipment, has dropped far behind its production schedule, due to faulty planning. In August, the plant jumped ahead of its production schedule of large castings, but in September, production of lighter, complicated castings lagged in comparison to the August level.

The fault lies with the unsatisfactory work of shop managers, foremen, political committees, and mass organizations. Large factories are managed by "small industry" methods; there is a scarcity of work at the beginning of the month, and by the month's end work progresses at a frantic pace, workers must work overtime, and supervisors, instead of directing, personally help out in the work. Large machines which may best be exploited in serial production are kept idle by a lack of essential assembly items. Everyone is responsible for these faults, and yet no one is to blame.

Machine stoppage is also excessive and, due to the negligence of factory directors, the work of machine maintenance crews is unsatisfactory. A better organization of machine maintenance has just begun, having been urged for a year.

Labor migration is unusually heavy. Several hundred workers, including large numbers of skilled men, left the plant in a single year. The morale of the workers suffers and workers leave the plant or change jobs when, despite suggestions, shop faults remain uncorrected.

Another main cause of discontent is the fact that shop directives and labor unions pay insufficient attention to the interest and legal rights of the workers and, instead, bemoan the lack of trained personnel.

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Salaries do not correspond to position or work accomplished: one division chief receives 1,100 forints, instead of 1,550-1,600 as prescribed in the steel industry collective contract. His subordinate, the assistant chief, also receives 1,100 forints. Errors often occur in the payment of wages and bonuses, which require a long time to correct. Sometimes a higher bonus is promised for special work, but is not paid.

Labor unions also tolerate a lack of hot water and permit locker rooms to remain uncleared, which in part is the fault of the workers. Insufficient attention is paid to workers' health. The factory doctor permits workers to engage in occupations which endanger their health.

The Hofherr plant occupies a large area and has a high percentage of youth workers. Political activity, however, is not adequate in organizing workers of the plant. The laxity of Communist workers, intellectual workers, and many respectable nonparty workers has allowed the shop faults to develop.

The Hofherr factory formerly was one of the strongholds of the Social Democrats. The "Baski case" a year ago demonstrated the resistance reported by Communists, which is still felt at the plant. Baski was one of several workers discharged from a Ganz factory for airing Social Democratic views. Hired at the Hofherr plant, he gradually changed his views, became a Stakhanovite, and was sent to a party school. For defending the new work norms, his former friends began to irritate him in every possible way, and Baski was finally sent to a mental sanatorium. When he recovered, he reported the case to the party, and the resisting clique was removed from the factory. Baski is now a Stakhanovite at the Hubert and Siegmund plant.

A similar case occurred in 1951. Beginning 20 August when patternmaker Buttkovski won the production competition pennant, she was constantly irritated by other workers; -- tools were snatched from her hands, material disappeared from her bench, she was accused of shoving others, etc.

Although the ministry and the Budapest Party Committee have studied various aspects of the work of the Hofherr factory, the situation continues unchanged. The management must be improved.

The secretary of the political committee has been replaced and improvement in the management is expected after the party elections.

LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY CAUSES STEEL LAG AT OZD -- Budapest, Nepszava, 2 Nov 51

Hungary is in need of steel. The time required for steel production at Ozd should be cut down, and production plans fulfilled, to make up the production lag. Work discipline and individual responsibility are slack, and production at the Ozd blast furnaces and Martin steel furnaces is several thousand tons behind schedule.

Lack of individual responsibility has caused serious losses at the Ozd plant. Recently, molten steel escaped from an open door of Martin steel furnace No 6, and covered the floor. More than once, a 30-ton ladle has been set in place to receive the charge of a 40-ton furnace, with the result that 10 tons of steel overflowed. During one week, furnace tap plugs broke four times. The entire 160-180 ton charge was lost, and the furnace had to be recharged. Tens and hundreds of tons of steel are lost due to carelessness and lack of responsibility, and there is no one to take the blame.

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Although workers complain of lack of materials and equipment, the real trouble lies in the disregard of production schedules. Tapping of Martin steel furnaces is hours off schedule, and several furnaces may be ready to pour or to charge at the same time.

ASKS FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTION QUALITY -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 1 Nov 51

Although Rakosi announced 2 years ago that improvement of the quality of production requires a great deal of attention, the Industrial Quality Control Institute reports that there is still much to be done.

Two of the five overhead cranes manufactured by the Hungarian Iron, Steel, and Machine Factory (MAVAG) at Budapest were returned because of serious defects: 80 percent of the riveting was defective, improper installation of corner brace plates was hazardous, and welding was defective. Serious repair work also had to be performed on the cranes which were not returned. Proper quality control at the factory would have kept the cranes from being shipped at all. The fact that a large number of the shops lack production and control specifications constitutes a serious drawback.

Quality control is also slack in the Csepel Worsted Goods Factory, where color fastness of woollens is often defective, and the cloth fades in sunlight. At the Szekesfehervar Leather Factory, leather treated with vegetable dyes was incompletely dried, resulting in a marred and cracked surface.

Labor unions will play an important role in improving quality of production, through organizing instruction in shop techniques and demonstrating the damage caused by any but the best production methods.

CALLS FOR PLANNED COOPERATION IN PROFILED INDUSTRY -- Budapest, Szabad Nep, 10 Nov 51

The transition from capitalist to socialist production requires the transition from a system of enterprises producing a great variety of items to a specialized, profiled industry. Profiling of industry means distribution of labor and specialization in industry, and requires proper cooperation between enterprises in an interchange of raw materials and assembly parts.

The manufacture of some complicated production items may require semi-finished products from 15-20 different factories. Automobile assembly, for example, requires the scheduled shipment of frames, rubber, glass, instruments, chassis, etc., from various factories.

Examination of latest production data shows a lack of cooperation between enterprises to an extent which may constitute a serious handicap to fulfillment of the economic plan. The high level of spoilage in the foundries has retarded the entire production program of the machine industry, creating a shortage in assembly parts which lowers output of end products.

The chief requisite for proper cooperation between enterprises is strict adherence to plans, including time schedules and quality requirements through the entire organization, down to the schedule for the individual machine.

Other requirements are observance of production cost plans; uniform production, contrasted to the present practice of a slack production pace at the beginning of the month, and feverish activity at the month's end; and a considerable tightening of individual responsibility. With the proper distribution of individual responsibility, all lines of control are centered on the

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enterprise director. Strict unity of will is required by the very nature of large-scale, mechanized industry. Planned cooperation between enterprises is the responsibility of the appropriate ministry.

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